From the Manager: Graduate Research Centre

Another busy year filled with research and discovery has passed, and the team at the Graduate Research Centre would like to take the opportunity to wish you a happy and safe holiday. We are looking forward to a well-earned break and are sure you are too.

It has certainly been a successful year. Here are just a few highlights:

• UniSA entered into its first Dual Award agreement with the Australian National University.
• We received our first Joyner Scholarship in medicine.
• UniSA scientist Dr Stephanie Reuter Lange was awarded a Fulbright scholarship.
• Lauren Frensham was awarded the Maurice DeRohan International Travel Scholarship.
• Carla Daunton from the Mawson Institute won the University’s 3 Minute Thesis competition.

Season’s greetings!

Kim Murphy

Supervisor snapshot – Tony Liddicoat (EASS)

Professor in Applied Linguistics (School of Communication, International Studies and Languages)

Being a thesis supervisor, for me, is one of the best parts of academic work. I have now supervised over forty PhD students in linguistics and each one of them has been as much a work of discovery and learning for me as it has been for the student.

I get to watch people maturing as researchers as they open up new knowledge about human language and how it works. In the end, the students teach me at least as much as I teach them and I have never supervised a thesis that didn’t shape the way I understand my own discipline.

I think that supervising a thesis is a balancing act – you need to give clear direction, but you also need to give room for students’ personal discovery. This means coming to know when you need to open things up for the student and when you need to give guidance – not enough direction and students are likely to end up losing their way, too much direction and you stifle their creativity.

It’s important to remember that research degree students are usually going through a major thesis for the first time. They bring much knowledge and experience to this, but they are also doing it to learn. A lot of what they learn is about how to write as a member of an academic community, and this means acquiring a new form of literacy that builds on, but isn’t the same as, the literacy they already have. This learning is at the heart of my job as a supervisor, working with students to craft their ideas into the language of our common discipline. When the thesis is finished, they have become an expert in their field and I have had the privilege of travelling with them on the journey.

Below left: Tony celebrating the end of the year with his students; below right: In his office
Research Professional database for researchers

Research Professional is a global funding database where staff and students can find the latest Australian and international funding opportunities across a wide range of disciplines. You can access this database from any UniSA on-campus computer but to maximise the browsing and saving capabilities it is recommended that you register and set up your profile (free) so you can receive tailored funding alerts and other key research news and information.

Research Professional online training is available for new staff or students or those who would like a refresher on using Research Professional. This training will assist you in getting started, setting up your profile and ultimately getting the most out of Research Professional.

Friday 14 December 10:30–11:30am (ACST)
Register

For further information contact Research and Innovation Services: Collette Sheahan

Three Minute Thesis Competition

This competition is an important national event in which UniSA participates annually. Participation provides our research degree students with invaluable communication experience. Latest resource: 3MT® handbook for participating universities

Scholarship opportunities

National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) top-up scholarships

NCVER is offering several PhD top-up scholarships to candidates beginning their postgraduate degrees in 2013. Applications are invited from students who obtain a primary scholarship, such as an Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) or equivalent, and whose PhD research aligns with the national research priorities for tertiary education and training.

Applications close 19 December 2012
More information and how to apply

International Travel Grants (UniSA)

This grant provides research degree students the opportunity to gain an international perspective and improve their thesis by having the opportunity to undertake research, data collection or work with institutional or industry partners in overseas locations.

Applications close 15 February 2013
More information and how to apply

Churchill Fellowships

A Churchill Fellowship is the award of an opportunity through the provision of financial support, to enable Australian citizens from all walks of life to travel overseas to undertake an analysis, study or investigation of a project or an issue that cannot be readily undertaken in Australia. Currently the average Fellowship value is $25,000.

Australian citizens over the age of 18 are eligible to apply for a Churchill Fellowship. Applicants must be able to complete a minimum of 4 weeks overseas travel to complete their research.

Applications close 20 February 2013.
More information and how to apply

e-Grad School online courses

Want to pursue a research administration career?
Want to learn how to turn good research into great innovation?

The e-Grad School offers the following courses:
- Graduate Certificate in Research Commercialisation
- Master of Research Management and Commercialisation.

Enrolments for these courses close 18 January 2013. These courses are offered 100% online and are FEE-HELP eligible. Australian Technology Network (ATN) students (includes UniSA) will receive a 20% discount on tuition fees.

Please contact us for more information on egsacoordinator@gut.edu.au

The e-Grad School team wishes you a safe and enjoyable Christmas break.

Living research @ UniSA Library

The Library features researchers in its TopicLaunch sites. TopicLaunch provides a launch pad to authoritative, reliable resources and information on a specific topic. These guides are pathways to assist you in beginning research.

Use the Research tab in a TopicLaunch site to find out about the latest resources.

Dr Rocco Zito

Dr Rocco Zito from the Barbara Hardy Institute is making in-roads into intelligent transport systems and the impact of transport. He is featured on the Environmental Sciences TopicLaunch site – watch him on video.

Prof Kurt Lushington

Prof Kurt Lushington is Head of School: Psychology, Social Work and Social Policy. You can view his Researcher ID profile (publications, citation metrics). His research interests are sleep medicine and especially child sleep. He is featured on the Psychology TopicLaunch site – watch him on video.

Upcoming events – keep your diary free!

Young Engineers SA networking event
Thurs 13 December
Engineers Australia South Australia Division would like to invite you to attend our 2012 Annual Division meeting and Christmas networking event. More information

Master of Stillness: Jeffrey Smart paintings 1940–2011
Last day Friday 14 December
Jeffrey Smart is Australia’s iconic master of the urban vision. More information

ACSPRI Summer Program
January and February 2013
Bookings are open for the Australian Consortium for Social and Political Research Inc (ACSPRI) Summer Program (January and February). More Information